



New Jersey Department of Human Services Office of Children's Services

CHILD WELFARE REFORM ACCOMPLISHMENTS SEPTEMBER 2004

CASE PRACTICE REFORM

- Created central hotline for allegations of abuse and neglect: 1-877 NJ ABUSE.
- Accelerated Hiring of Caseworkers: 160 hired in July; 100 more by November 2004.
- Safely closed cases on 1,800 families - 3,500 children - since July 1.
- 3,000 staff trained in Structured Decision Making including safety assessments.

RESOURCE FAMILIES

- Recruited to date 500 new resource families: foster, adoptive, kinship.
- Increased stipends to kinship families by an average of 68 % from a flat \$250 to at least \$435 per month, to achieve parity with non-kin foster parents.
- Awarded contracts with community-based agencies to develop targeted resource families: 15 new homes in each of Paterson, Newark, Trenton and Camden.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND CHILD WELFARE

- Increased substance abuse treatment options for DYFS families; created 25 residential slots, 40 intensive outpatient slots, and 6 residentially-assisted partial care slots for DYFS mothers and children.
- Opened the outpatient portion of the first-ever residential substance abuse treatment facility for adolescents in South Jersey and funded an additional 20 residential beds exclusively for DYFS-involved teens.
- Provided capital funding for 22 new residential treatment slots for women and children in 2005.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL WELL BEING FOR CHILDREN IN CARE

- Enrolled nearly 4,000 foster children in HMOs for primary medical and dental care - a ten-fold increase in the last four months.
- Reduced reliance on emergency rooms for pre-placement exams for children entering foster care by establishing a network of pediatricians to conduct medical evaluations.
- Assigned a nurse to every DYFS office.

CHILD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Expanded Mobile Response to bring in-home stabilization service to families in 16 of 21 counties.
- Awarded contracts to agencies in 18 counties to double the number of Youth Case Managers (who assist children with behavioral health issues) statewide from 75 to 167.
- Established 38 of targeted 75 community treatment beds for children with behavioral health needs.
- Created 10 beds for seriously emotionally disturbed youth in Camden County.